

~~51~~  
covalent bond with the superabsorbent particles, and at least one functional group capable of forming a hydrogen bond with the cellulose fiber;

combining superabsorbent particles having a hydrogen or a coordinate covalent bonding functional site with the binder-containing cellulose fiber; and

binding the superabsorbent particles to the binder-containing cellulose fiber.

~~57.~~<sup>2</sup> The method of Claim ~~55~~, wherein the nonpolymeric organic binder is present on the cellulose fiber in an amount ranging from 1 to 25% by weight based on the weight of the cellulose fiber.

~~58.~~<sup>3</sup> The method of Claim ~~55~~, wherein the cellulose fiber comprises wood pulp fiber.

~~59.~~<sup>4</sup> The method of Claim ~~55~~, wherein the functional groups of the nonpolymeric binder are hydroxyl functional groups.

~~61.~~<sup>5</sup> The method of Claim ~~59~~, wherein the binder is present on the cellulose fiber in an amount ranging from 1-25% by weight based on the weight of the cellulose fiber.

~~62.~~<sup>6</sup> The method of Claim ~~55~~, wherein the binder is a diol.

~~64.~~<sup>7</sup> The method of Claim ~~62~~, wherein the binder is present on the cellulose fiber in an amount ranging from 1-25% by weight based on the weight of the cellulose fiber.

~~65.~~<sup>8</sup> The method of Claim ~~55~~, wherein the binder is propylene glycol.

~~67.~~<sup>9</sup> The method of Claim ~~65~~, wherein the binder is present on the cellulose fiber in an amount ranging from 1-25% by weight based on the weight of the cellulose fiber.

~~68.~~<sup>11</sup> The method of Claim ~~55~~, wherein the binding step is carried out at a temperature less than 150°C.

~~69.~~<sup>12</sup> The method of Claim ~~55~~, wherein the combining step comprises adding superabsorbent particles in an amount ranging from 1-80% by weight of the total weight of the superabsorbent particles and cellulose fiber.

~~70.~~<sup>13</sup> The method of Claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the combining step comprises adding superabsorbent particles in an amount ranging from 3-40% by weight of the total weight of the superabsorbent particles and cellulose fiber.

~~71.~~<sup>14</sup> The method of Claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the binder is trimethylene glycol.

~~72.~~<sup>15</sup> The method of Claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the binder is ethylene glycol.

~~73.~~<sup>17</sup> The method of Claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the binder is dipropylene glycol.

~~74.~~<sup>18</sup> The method of Claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the binder is butylene glycol.

~~75.~~<sup>19</sup> The method of Claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the binder is 2,3-butane diol.

~~76.~~<sup>10</sup> The method of Claim ~~65~~<sup>8</sup>, wherein the cellulose fiber comprises wood pulp fiber.

~~77.~~<sup>16</sup> The method of Claim ~~72~~<sup>15</sup>, wherein the cellulose fiber comprises wood pulp fiber.

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